

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that James G. Weyer, Jr., 42, of Glenwood City, Wis., pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison to the unauthorized sale of collateral securing a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Administration, a misdemeanor charge.

At the plea hearing before Magistrate Judge Stephen Crocker, the government explained that Weyer had received a loan from the FSA in 2003, pledging assets and livestock on his farm to secure the loan. Under the terms of the loan and federal law, Weyer was not permitted to sell any of the pledged livestock without the express permission of the FSA. At a cattle auction on November 1, 2005, Weyer sold one of the dairy cows pledged, in addition to 50 others.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen Crocker scheduled sentencing for July 30, 2008. Weyer faces a maximum penalty of one year in prison.

The charge against Weyer was the result of an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Anderson.

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